RELEASED PER P.L. 102-526 (JFK ACT)
NARA [signature] DATE 4/13/98
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JFK ASSASSINATION
Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

November 4, 1977

Dear Ann and Betsy:

Ann, I hope you are completely recovered from your recent trips to the dentist...

I am enclosing the summary I did in February of this year listing all the CIA documents withheld from research at that time. I have up-dated it to include the March 1977 releases (the last releases I am aware of). This summary was requested by Mickey Goldsmith. Please give it to him.

Also enclosed is a very rough write-up of some conversations with Copenhagen yesterday morning. I spoke with Betsy about the conversations yesterday and, since I had written it up for Arch, I decided to send along a copy for you people (just in case you might be interested). My friend, Mr. Rieper-Holm, is sending me the Finnish papers and I will take them (with a tape recorder) to Finn-Air or the Finnish Consul or somebody who can translate them adequately for me. I'll send you a copy of the Finnish papers when I get them.

A few years ago, I obtained a little book purporting to contain the transcript of the trial of Francis Gary Powers. In the book are a number of photographs of Powers, the U-2, and documents he had on him when his plane was shot down. I have attempted (with the aid of a magnifying glass) to compare documents Powers had in his possession with documents Oswald had on November 22, 1963.

One of the documents I have been particularly interested in is the "Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card." Both men had one... However, Oswald's card had a "cut-out" picture from a group picture taken in Minsk in place of the picture which had originally been on the card. I believe the picture which had been on the card is the one I am enclosing a copy of (from the ONI file), where he was standing against a measuring device.

In September of 1963, Richard Case Nagell was arrested in El Paso, Texas, for firing a gun in a bank there. His papers and documents were taken by the FBI. In about 1969, 1970, or 1971, Bud Fensterwald was representing Nagell in an attempt to recover his possessions taken by the FBI. When Bud finally got them released, he Xeroxed them and sent the originals on to Nagell. A couple of years ago, a young man named Dick Russell was in Bud's office going through the Nagell files. Dick called me and asked me if I had ever seen a card bearing a picture and Oswald's signature, numbered N 4,___,___ (I have forgotten the number now). I told Dick that was the number on the Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card which was issued to Oswald on September 11, 1959.

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The picture on the Oswald card (in Nagell's possession in September 1963 - a Xerox of it found in Bud's file) was not any picture we have ever seen before. Even though it is a rather poor Xerox, we could tell that it was not any picture of Oswald we had ever seen. I am not certain that it was a picture of Oswald at all. But, the important question is, "How did Nagell get a copy of that card and how did he have it in his possession two months prior to the assassination?" Dick Russell made a Xerox of Bud's Xerox and, of course, it is terrible. Bud claims he has been unable to find his Xerox copy. Dick Russell later told me the card was not in with other documents seized by the FBI from Nagell, but was in the Pleadings File.

Prior to getting this information from Dick Russell, I had put Richard Case Nagell in the same category with Augustinovich, Don Morgan, etc. This was the first tangible link between Nagell and Oswald I had seen (if the card had actually been among the things the FBI seized in El Paso in September 1963).

Then, in January 1977, when I received another release from the CIA and got CIA 1123-424 with the name deleted but the date and place of birth indicated (they were Nagell's birth date and place of birth), and realized they were withholding completely three other documents: CIA 1122-982, 1124-983 and 1125-984 about the same person, and two other documents being withheld are possibly about Nagell: CIA 1086-967 and CIA 1087-968, this made Nagell gain in importance in my mind.

You might give the above to someone who is at least mildly interested in Nagell...

I am enclosing a Xerox of the picture I believe was on Oswald's Uniformed Services Identification card, along with a Xerox of Powers' card from the book about the trial.

Professor Blakey will be receiving some material from Jack White about the Oswald picture (complaining that it is out of proportion). I am not too good at judging perspective, but if the Oswald card is "out of proportion" then I think the Powers photo is also "out." Perhaps you people have a resident expert in this field...

We gave Earl Golz some documentation for an article on Ms. Lorenz's "story" about Sturgis. He did a very good article on it. We gave him documentation for where Oswald was all week prior to Nov. 22, 1963, including the sales slip from Eagle Grocery. I have no doubts that Sturgis is capable of anything, and he and Lorenz may well have travelled across the country together. But, I do not believe Oswald was with them. And, deliver me from any more "look-alikes."

Love,

Mary

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November 3, 1977

At approximately 5:00 a.m. this morning, Thursday, November 3, 1977, I received a telephone call from Mr. Per U. Rieper-Holm in Copenhagen, Denmark. He represents the Danish newspaper, B. T., the largest paper in Denmark.

Mr. Rieper-Holm said the first "connection" was very bad and we hung up and he called back in a short time. He had received a Finnish newspaper with articles regarding Lee Harvey Oswald. The newspaper was printing 4 documents concerning Oswald's brief stay in Finland in October 1959. Since Mr. Rieper-Holm does not read Finnish, he was having great difficulty making me understand exactly the context of the articles.

At approximately 10:00 a.m., Mr. Rieper-Holm called again from Copenhagen. This time he had a Finnish interpreter with him. They asked if I would permit them to tape our conversation. I gave permission. There was still great difficulty in making me understand exactly what the Finnish paper reported, since the Finnish interpreter was translating from Finnish to Danish and Mr. Rieper-Holm was then translating from Danish into English for me. The following represents what I understood the articles to report:

1) Lee Harvey Oswald arrived in Helsinki from Southhampton at 11:30 p.m., October 10, 1959. One of the printed documents is apparently a form Oswald filled in upon his arrival in Finland. On the form, Oswald stated that he was an American student and that he would leave Finland on Monday, October 12, 1959, to return to the United States.

In commenting on this document, the Finnish newspaper states that a representative of the Finnish travel bureau met Oswald at the airport and assisted him in getting to the Hotel Tourni. Otherwise, he could not have cleared customs and filled out all the forms and arrived at the hotel in time to have "checked in before midnight." They also question his ability to obtain a Soviet visa in two days time. He apparently knew that he would obtain the visa in two days, as he stated he would depart on the 12th. (MEF NOTE: It is our belief that he actually departed on the 14th.)

2) The second document printed is the hotel registration form filled out by Oswald at the Hotel Tourni. He said, on this form, that he would depart on the 12th. He was assigned Room 309.

In commenting on this document, the paper states that the next day, October 11, 1959, Oswald checked out of the Hotel Tourni,

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stating that he was returning to the United States. He did not leave Finland, but checked into the Hotel Klaus Kurki. (MEF NOTE: We have always wondered why he switched hotels after one night. If he wanted to "drop out of sight" for a day or two, this might explain why he changed hotels stating that he was returning to the U.S.)

3) Another document printed is apparently a CIA document released under Freedom of Information in 1976. It is CIA 15-523, a check-list of Soviets in Finland during 1955, 1956, 1959, 1960, and 1961. The name of the only Soviet official in Finland in 1959 has been "blacked-out" on the document as printed. I supplied the name GOLUB to them. Our copy of the document did not have the name deleted.

4) The last document is the cover sheet to the CIA's 201 file on Oswald. It contains the name LEE HENRY OSWALD.

Comments in the articles which are of interest (if they were properly translated) are as follows:

Oswald had 1,000 Finnish Marks waiting for him upon his arrival in Helsinki. They state that this is unusual unless one has government help. (APK states that in 1977 they had no trouble getting Finnish money. They merely went to the bank and exchanged the money immediately. However, APK says it may have been different 18 years ago.)

The Finns are "upset" because there are now rumors that Oswald did not receive his visa in Helsinki but had to go to Stockholm for two days to receive the visa. This is untrue. He did receive the Soviet visa (in two days according to our calculations) in less than one day, if the Finnish account is true.

According to the articles, Oswald departed Finland by train for Russia on the 12th (we believe the 14th). He was accompanied by three other Americans. The Finns seem to know who one of these Americans was -- a 30-year-old student.

Mary Ferrell